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Typed or Printed Name	Martha Cisneros		
Signature		Date	12/17/02
AMENDMENT Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 Address to: Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Attorney Docket	GUID-012CON	
	First Named Inventor	Lawrence W. Hu, et al.	
	Application Number	09/900,503	
	Filing Date	July 6, 2001	
	Confirmation Number	5237	
	Group Art Unit	3732	
	Examiner Name	Jeffery A. Smith	
	Title	SURGICAL RETRACTOR PLATFORM BLADE APPARATUS	

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated June 19, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given, making this response due on or before September 19, 2002. A Three-Month extension of time is requested herewith making the due date to respond by December 19, 2002.

Applicants note that they have submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure for consideration herewith. It includes copies of the references that the Examiner stated he could not readily locate.

In view of such information and in view of the following, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

IN THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner's approval and acceptance of the drawing change proposed in the Amendment filed March 13, 2002 is appreciated. It is believed that no further action by Applicants on this point is required.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace claims 8 and 11 with the following:

8. (Amended) A surgical retractor blade, said retractor blade comprising a polymeric body having a first end, a second end, a channel adapted to engage one side of an incision in a patient, and a rail extending along at least a portion of said polymeric body, wherein said first end is adapted for attaching to a separate, complete drive mechanism.

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GROUP 3600